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	7590 11/03/2005			EXAMINER	
Jeanine S. Ray-Yarletts				COLIN, CARL G	
	IBM Corporation PO Box 12195			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
	Research Triangle Park, NC 27709			2136	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

		Application	No.	Applicant(s)				
		09/764,844		DOYLE ET AL.				
	Office Action Summary	Examiner		Art Unit				
		Carl Colin		2136				
The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address Period for Reply								
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely. - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). - Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b). Status								
1) 🖾								
2a)⊠		is action is n						
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.								
Dispositi	on of Claims	•						
4)⊠	4) Claim(s) 1,3-23,33,35-56 and 58-78 is/are pending in the application.							
,	4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.							
5)	5) Claim(s) is/are allowed.							
6)🖂	6)⊠ Claim(s) <u>1,3-23,33,35-56 and 58-78</u> is/are rejected.							
7)	7) Claim(s) is/are objected to.							
8) Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.								
Application Papers								
9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.								
10) The drawing(s) filed on 17 January 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.								
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.								
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.								
12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.								
Priority u	inder 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120							
-	13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).							
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:								
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.								
	2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No							
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).								
	* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.							
14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).								
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received. 15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.								
Attachment(s)								
2) Notic	e of References Cited (PTO-892) e of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) nation Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s)			(PTO-413) Paper No(s) atent Application (PTO-152)				

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. In view of the Appeal Brief filed on 8/5/2005, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. A new ground of rejection is set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

- (1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,
 - (2) request reinstatement of the appeal.

If reinstatement of the appeal is requested, such request must be accompanied by a supplemental appeal brief, but no new amendments, affidavits (37 CFR 1.130, 1.131 or 1.132) or other evidence are permitted. See 37 CFR 1.193(b)(2).

- 2. In response to communications filed on 11/4/2004, applicant has cancelled claims 2, 24-32, 34, and 57 and amended claims 1, 8, 10, 13, 15, 16, 20, 33, 40-45, 47-53, 55-56, 63-65, 67-68, 70-76, and 78. The following claims 1, 3-23, 33, 35-56, and 58-78 are presented for examination.
- 3. The amendments to the specification, pages 2-3, filed on 5/2/2005 have been considered and the objection has been withdrawn due to the amended specification. The Terminal Disclaimer fee has been received and the Double Patenting rejection has been withdrawn.

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3.1 Applicant's arguments in the brief, filed on 8/5/2005 with respect to the rejection of claims 1, 3-23, 33, 35-56, and 58-78 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In the Summary of Claimed Subject Matter, pages 3-4 of the appeal brief, Applicant fails to provide a concise description of the specification to show the claimed limitations of claim 1 because the pages and line numbers cited by applicant do not describe the claimed invention as claimed. The amendment, which was filed on 11/4/2004 before the Final rejection constitutes new matter and a new ground of rejection of 112, paragraph 1 is necessitated by the amendment. Applicant argues that clear and particular evidence are not provided to support the combining of the references. Examiner would like to clarify that the independent claims are not rejected under England and additional clarification for combining of the references was provided to Applicant in the reply to Applicant's arguments mailed on 5/6/2005. Applicant is again provided with the clarification for combining of the references as explained below in the rejection of the claims. In response to Applicant's arguments of the claimed invention, not only that applicant's amended claims constitute new matter as explained in the 112 rejection below, applicant relies on language that is not claimed to provide the basis for his/her arguments. Applicant's argument is misleading, for instance, applicant's brief, page 8, uses "authentication of components" "of a camera in the middle of taking picture unplugged from a security core and plugged again to another security core" to explain the claimed limitation of improving the security of transactions (security sensitive operation) performed using smart cards, and also a card with an integrated biometric sensor. These facts are not relevant to the process claimed for example in claim 56 with applicant's explanation above (see applicant's abstract and independent claims, emphasis

added). Applicant also adds, "the security core may conclude that a security sensitive operation with a component is not authentic if that component is disconnected and may treat data that is

later received from the reconnected component as unsecure. Nothing in Bjorn discloses or suggests the teachings recited in claim 1." This is clearly not the teaching of any of the independent claims. The limitation that applicant is referring to on the other hand says, concluding within a security component (security core) that a security sensitive operation (transaction) is authentic based on all the one or more other components (the biometric sensor) which are securely operably connected remaining securely operably connected until completion of the security-sensitive operation. Applicant on the reply filed on 5/2/2005, again relies on

language that is not claimed to maintain his/her arguments, by referring to "all the one or more other components" as "components other that the biometric sensor", where the claim language, on the contrary, recites "operating a biometric sensor as one of the one or more other components to the security component". For at least the reasons stated above, Examiner

claims remain rejected with some clarification; applicant's amendment necessitated new ground

maintains the rejection of the claims under 103 in view of the same references, independent

of rejection of new matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112: 4.

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make

and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4.1 Claims 1, 33, and 56 and the intervening claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Applicant's disclosure fails to recite

a card reader for repeatedly accessing the stored secrets and stored identifying information wherein the stored identifying information comprises stored biometric information of the authorized holder and wherein the card reader is configured to repeatedly access the stored secrets and stored identifying information upon beginning a security-sensitive operation and is configured to terminate repeatedly accessing upon completion of the security-sensitive operation:

means for establishing a secure operable connection between the biometric sensor, the card reader, and the security component; means for comparing the repeatedly obtained biometric information to the stored biometric information of the authorized holder of the card;

and means for concluding within the security component that the security-sensitive operation is authentic based on all the one or more other components which are securely operably connected to the security component remaining securely operably connected to the security component until completion of the security-sensitive operation.

The citations provided by Applicant in the brief (page 10, line 11; page 32, line 17 to page 33, line 13 and figure 4) are nowhere close to the description of the claimed invention as

claimed above to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. For example page 10, line 11, as cited by applicant, does not refer to a card reader for repeatedly accessing the stored secrets and stored identifying information; and page 32, line 17 to page 33, line 13 and figure 4 do not discuss either page 32, line 17 to page 33, line 13 upon beginning a security-sensitive operation and is configured to terminate repeatedly accessing upon completion of the securitysensitive operation.

In fact, the citation provided by applicant on page 32, line 17 to page 33, line 13 shows clearly that the card reader performs nothing else in applicant's disclosure except for authenticating itself to the security core (for secure attachment); "the user identifies himself to the biometric sensor, a validation may be performed either by the biometric sensor or the security core to compare biometric input to the information stored on the card". In this section, the disclosure is directed to whether the biometric sensor should be integrated with the smart card or not; a benefit from separating them is using multiple smart card/sensor combinations (fig. 4); in the second approach to improving security with smart cards the smart card and biometric sensors may be physically combined onto a single card" (figures 5-6), page 33, lines 14-15. In the second approach, which is explained later in figures 5-7, "the smart card with its protected information is effectively the security core" (see page 34, lines 2-3). As illustrated in figure 6, and page 34, lines 12-14, "the smart card attaches itself to the security core through the smart card reader", there is no further discussion of the smart card reader; in fact, "the sensor is capable of performing repeatedly checking the user's identity" the card is integrated with the biometric sensor so that "the biometric sensor can detect whether contact with the user has been

interrupted" (page 35, line 18 through page 36, line 9 and page 37, line 13-21). The "securitysensitive operation" is a transaction performed by an application to authenticate a user as defined on page 35, line 18 through page 36, line 9; by "detecting whether contact with the user has been interrupted; if the sensor detects an interruption the transaction is preferably aborted" (page 37, lines 18-21). The written description does not provide any support of card reader being configured for repeatedly accessing... upon beginning a security-sensitive operation and configured to terminate repeatedly accessing... upon completion of security-sensitive operation neither means for comparing.... Regarding the "concluding that the security-sensitive operation is authentic", applicant's disclosure does not describe authenticity of the "security-sensitive" operation" (transaction), the disclosure on the other hand, determines whether the transaction is successfully created based on interruption of contact with the authenticated user as mentioned on page 38, lines 8-15, the specification then suggests "it may also be desirable to include logic to check whether all of the authenticated components that were in use when performing the security sensitive operation - or perhaps all authenticated components that were plugged in when the transaction started- are still plugged in to their respective bus prior to determining that the security operation is successfully created", which means before determining that the security operation is successfully created check if the components are still plugged in, the checking may be done at anytime before the determining. There is no support of "concluding within the security component (security core)", as a matter of fact, the security core is not even a concern in this section, and there is no support of determining that the security operation is authentic, and no support of "all the one or more other components which are securely operably connected to the security component remaining securely operably connected to the security component until

completion of the security-sensitive operation". Therefore, the written description of the amended claims does not reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

- 5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
- 5.1 Claims 1, 3-4, 6, 7, 10, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 33, 35-36, 38, 39, 42, 45, 46, 48, 49, 51, 56, 58-59, 61, 62, 65, 68, 69, 71, 72, and 74 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 6,125,192 to Bjorn et al. in view of US Patent 5,229,764 to Matchett et al..
- 5.2 As per claims 1, 14, 33, 46, 56, and 69, Bjorn et al. substantially teaches a method and system for providing continuous authentication of a user of a computing device, comprising: a security component which provides security functions, such that the security component can

vouch for authenticity of one or more components with which it is securely operably connected, for example (see column 4, line 39 through column 5, line 22; see also column 5, line 43 through column 6, line 27); a biometric sensor component that is securely operably connected as one of the one or more other components to the security component, for example (see column 4, line 39 through column 5, line 22; see also column 5, line 43 through column 6, line 27 and column 4, line 39 through column 5, line 22); a card containing stored secrets and stored identifying information pertaining to an authorized holder of the card, for example (see column 4, line 39 through column 5, line 22 and column 6, lines 18-27); a card reader for accessing the stored secrets and stored identifying information, for example (see column 4, line 39 through column 5, line 22); means for operably inserting the card into the card reader, for example (see column 16, lines 33-43); and means for establishing a secure operable connection between the biometric sensor, the card reader, and the security component, for example (see column 4, line 39 through column 5, line 22; see also column 5, line 43 through column 6, line 27 and column 4, line 39 through column 5, line 22); means for obtaining from the biometric sensor component biometric input of a user of the computing device and means for comparing the obtained biometric input to the securely-stored biometric information of the authorized holder of the card, for example (see column 6, lines 27-43). Bjorn discloses using public-private key system to make the communication between sensors and any systems used in processing more secure to prevent tampering (column 9, lines 33-35, 41-67). The public-private key system combined with a time stamp is a security sensitive operation used by the digital system to make a determination that the sensor and the digital system are interconnected as explained in (column 9, lines 64 through

column 10, line 22). The only difference between Bjorn and the claimed invention is "repeatedly" obtaining a biometric input.

Matchett et al. in an analogous art teaches means for repeatedly obtaining from the biometric sensor component such as fingerprint sensor, retinal scan etc., for example (see column 1, lines 60 through column 2, line 3) biometric input of a user of the computing device and means for comparing the repeatedly obtained biometric input to the securely-stored biometric information of the owner, wherein each comparison comprises an authentication of the user, for example (see column 3, lines 10-55). Matchett et al. discloses that if biometric checks are increased in duration and/or number, security would be enhanced and user substitution to an unauthorized user would be prevented, for example (see column 2, lines 55-66). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Bjorn et al. to provide teaching means for repeatedly obtaining from the biometric sensor component biometric input of a user of the computing device and means for comparing the repeatedly obtained biometric input to the securely-stored biometric information of the owner, wherein each comparison comprises an authentication of the user as taught by Matchett et al. Bjorn states that if a thief acceses the system once after the session is finished the thief cannot utilize the data obtained to access a second session because each time a session is established security is re-established meaning the system has to be authenticated again. Matchett discloses that the type of system that provides only one initial check "acts as gate to a protected system because the user stays in unchecked; a continuous intermittent periodic biometric checks would eliminate this problem" (column 2, lines 40-66). There is suggestion or motivation to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the two references because the

continuous intermittent periodic biometric checks of Matchett would not allow a thief to tamper

the system after a first validation because one skilled in the art would have been motivated to

continuously perform re-authentication to guarantee the interconnection of the devices. There

should be continuous unpredictable repetition of authentication so long as a protected device is in

use as suggested by Matchett (column 4, line 47 through column 5, line 7) so as to enhance

security and prevent user substitution to an unauthorized user, for example (see column 2, lines

55-66).

Matchett et al discloses a continuous authentication by controlling any fraudulent including signal cut-off of the protected system during the continuous authentication (see an exemplary embodiment column 5, line 40 through column 6, line 28). Matchett discloses that in addition to a secure connection (column 9, lines 50 et seq.) security could be enhanced instructing the protected system or device to shut down should it be disconnected from the system 400 (column 10, lines 2-10). Figure 2 shows another secure configuration to protect "one or more systems or devices" column 8, lines 8-11 that meets the recitation of wherein the means for concluding that the security-sensitive operation is authentic also requires that all of the one or more components which are securely operably connected to the security core and which are involved in the security-sensitive operation remain connected until completion of the security-

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Bjorn and Matchett to make determination that the secure-sensitive operation is authentic based on all of the one or more other components which are securely operably connected to the security core and which are involved in the security-sensitive

sensitive operation, for example (see column 10, lines 3-5).

operation remain connected until completion of the operation as suggested by **Matchett et al.**.

This modification would have been obvious because one skilled in the art would have been motivated by the suggestions provided by **Matchett et al.** because keeping everything connected to monitor the use of the protected device is part of enhancing the security of a true continuous authentication (see column 4, line 55 through column 5, line 6, column 6, lines 10-26).

As per claims 16, 48, and 71, Bjorn et al discloses the limitation of wherein the stored identifying information comprises stored biometric information of the authorized holder, and further comprising means for comparing biometric information obtained with the biometric sensor from a user of the system, to the stored biometric information of the authorized holder, Bjorn et al also discloses wherein the means for comparing is performed by the biometric sensor, for example (see column 6, lines 27-43).

As per claims 3, 35, and 58, Bjorn et al. discloses the limitation of wherein selected ones of the secure operable connections are made using one or more buses of the security component, for example (see column 4, line 39 through column 5, line 22).

As per claims 4, 36, and 59, Bjorn et al. discloses the limitation of wherein selected ones of the operable connections are made using a wireless connection between respective ones of the components and the security component, for example (see column 4, lines 18-22).

As per claims 6, 38, and 61, Bjorn et al. discloses the limitation of wherein selected ones of the secure operable connections are provided when the security component is manufactured, for example (see column 9, lines 52-62).

As per claims 7, 39, and 62, Bjorn et al. discloses the limitation of wherein the components comprise one or more of (1) input/output components and (2) application processing components, for example (see column 8, lines 4-30).

As per claims 10, 42, and 65, Bjorn et al. discloses the limitation of wherein the means for establishing a secure operable connection is activated by a hardware reset of the component, and wherein the hardware reset is activated by operably connecting of the component, for example (see column 8, lines 4-30).

As per claims 13, 45, and 68, Bjorn et al. discloses the limitation of further comprising means for concluding that the user is the authorized holder of the card only if the means for comparing succeeds, for example (see column 6, lines 27-43 and column 16, line 50 through column 17, line 5).

As per claims 17, 49, and 72, Bjorn et al. discloses the limitation of further comprising means for securely transferring the stored biometric information of the authorized holder to the biometric sensor for use by the means for comparing, for example (see column 6, lines 28-43 and column 17, lines 50-67).

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As per claims 19, 51, and 74, Bjorn et al. discloses the limitation of wherein the means for comparing is performed by the security component, for example (see column 8, line 60 through column 9, line 3).

- 6. Claims 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 37, 40, 41, 43, 44, 47, 50, 52, 53, 54, 55, 60, 63, 64, 66, 67, 70, 73, 75, 76, 77, and 78 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 6,125,192 to Bjorn et al. in view of US Patent 5,229,764 to Matchett et al. as applied to claims 1, 33, 56, and 69 above, and further in view of US Patent 6,330,670 to **England et al.**.
- 6.1 As per claims 5, 22, 37, 54, 60, and 77, Bjorn et al. substantially teaches a method and system for securely providing biometric input from a user and means for securely operably connecting the biometric sensor the digital system that meets the recitation of the security component and the receiving unit that meets the recitation of the card reader. Bjorn et al. discloses an embodiment using a network, for example (see figure 3) and also discloses the sensor can be connected to a wireless system, or any indirect digital connection, for example (see column 4, lines 18-22). Bjorn et al. further discloses mutual authentication using public/private key and using a key each time a session is established and a timestamp to prevent stealing of the key, for example (see column 10, lines 1-22). It is very well known in the art wireless connection using SSL data encryption or equivalent that provides mutual authentication of both

endpoints with a limited one-time key. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system as combined above to provide wireless connections use Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) data encryption or an equivalent which provides mutual authentication of both endpoints, negotiation of a time-limited key agreement with secure passage of a selected encryption key, and periodic renegotiation of the time-limited key agreement with a new encryption key as suggested by Bjorn et al. to prevent stealing of the key for renegotiation.

England et al. in an analogous art teaches secure communication between components using SSL whereas keys are valid for a short period of time to prevent the key from being compromised, for example (see column 15, lines 29-45 and column 20, lines 40-57). England et al. also discloses a unique device identifier that is used to identify data originating therefrom, a digital certificate, a private cryptographic key and a public cryptographic key that is cryptographically-associated with the private cryptographic key, for example (see column 12, lines 53-65). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Bjorn et al. to provide wireless connections use Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) data encryption or an equivalent which provides mutual authentication of both endpoints, negotiation of a time-limited key agreement with secure passage of a selected encryption key, and periodic renegotiation of the time-limited key agreement with a new encryption key as taught by England et al. This modification would have been obvious because one skilled in the art would have been motivated by the suggestions provided by England et al. so as to prevent the key from being compromised.

As per claims 8, 9, 11, 12, 21, 40, 41, 43, 44, 53, 63, 64, 66, 67, and 76, Bjorn et al. discloses the limitation of wherein the means for establishing a secure operable connection further comprises means for authenticating the biometric sensor to the security component and means for authenticating the security component to the biometric sensor, for example (see column 9, line 30 through column 10, line 7) and security handshake, for example (column 6, lines 52-65). Bjorn et al. discloses the limitation of wherein the means for authenticating the biometric sensor securely stored thereon. Bjorn et al. is silent about authenticating the card reader because of using an integral reader in its preferred embodiment, however, Bjorn et al. also discloses using a reader that can be attached to the security component through any connection, for example (see column 4, line 65 through column 5, line 6); when using an integral component, no duplicative memory, security units would be required otherwise strict security is necessary, for example (see column 5, lines 45-65). Therefore, one skilled in the art would be able to use disclosed by **Bjorn et al.** with a separate reader that will require the same authentication as the one for the sensor. It is apparent to one skilled in the art that one can mutually authenticate the card reader with the security component without departing from the scope and the spirit of the invention disclosed by Bjorn et al..

England et al. in an analogous art also teaches mutual authentication of more than one component, for example (see column 12, lines 53-65) to provide a tamper resistant system.

Therefore these claims are rejected on the same rationale as the rejection of claims 5, 37, and 60 above.

As per claims 15, 18, 47, 50, 70, and 73, Bjorn et al. discloses the limitation of wherein the stored secrets comprise a private key and a public key which are cryptographically related

using public key cryptography, and further comprising configured to digitally sign information presented to the card with the private key if the means for comparing succeeds and if the biometric sensor, the card reader, and the security component remain securely operably connected, for example (see column 4, line 65 through column 5, line 6 and column 16, lines 32-67). The authentication of the card reader was discussed above. Therefore these claims are rejected on the same rationale as the rejection of claims 5, 37, and 60. **Bjorn et al.** discloses a cross-authentication that would not be possible if the component is removed from the system (as mentioned in column 7, US Patent 6,577,733).

As per claims 20, 52, and 75, Bjorn et al. discloses the limitation of further comprising means for establishing a secure operable connection between an application processing component to the security component, and wherein the information presented to the card is generated by the established secure, operable connected application processing component, for example (see column 9, line 30 through column 10). England et al. also discloses application processing component to the security component to generate information from another component, for example (see column 12, lines 53-67). Therefore these claims are rejected on the same rationale as claims 5, 37, and 60.

Claims 23, 55, and 78 are similar to the rejected claims 22, 54, and 77 except for incorporating the claimed method into a system. Therefore, claims 23, 55, and 78 are rejected on the same rationale as the rejection of claims 22, 54, and 77.

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Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a). A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carl Colin whose telephone number is 571-272-3862. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, 8:00-6:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ü.С

Carl Colin

Patent Examiner

October 27, 2005

AYAZ SHEIKH SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER TECHNOLOGY CZHTER 2100